MARVEL COMICS
THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMICS!
THE NEW MUTANTS:™
TRUTH or DEATH 1 of 3
NOV #1
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE CA AUTHORITY
The MAGIK is BACK!™
RAAB CHANG PENNINGTON

SOME YEARS AGO...
THIS, MY FRIENDS, IS THE NIGHTMARE I CALLED HOME FOR SEVEN AGONIZING YEARS.
THIS... IS LIMBO.
TRY NOT TO GET YOURSELVES KILLED.

SHEE-OOT, *ILLYANA!* THIS LOOKS LIKE SOMETHIN' OUT O' A *STEPHEN KING* NOVEL!
NAE, *SAM* --'TIS MORE LIKE THE PIT O' *HADES* FROM *DANTE'S "INFERNO"!*
THESE BE *D-DEVILSPAWN!* RIGHT, *ROBERTO?*
BLESSED MADONNA, *RAHNE!* TH-THERE ARE *HUNDREDS* OF THEM!
NOBODY PANIC!
JUST REMEMBER YOUR TRAINING AND WE SHOULD ALL GET OUT OF THIS JUST FINE!
OR SO YOU *HOPE,* MOONSTAR!
YOU THOUGHT THAT *"DEMON BEAR"* OF YOURS WAS TOUGH..?*
THESE GUYS EAT MONSTERS LIKE THAT FOR BREAKFAST!

STAN LEE PRESENTS:

THE NEW MUTANTS!

IN A XAVIER SCHOOL CLASS REUNION UNLIKE ANY OTHER!

TRUTH *or* ~~DARE~~ DEATH

*THE ONE THAT TORMENTED THE KIDS IN *NEW MUTANTS #19&20!*

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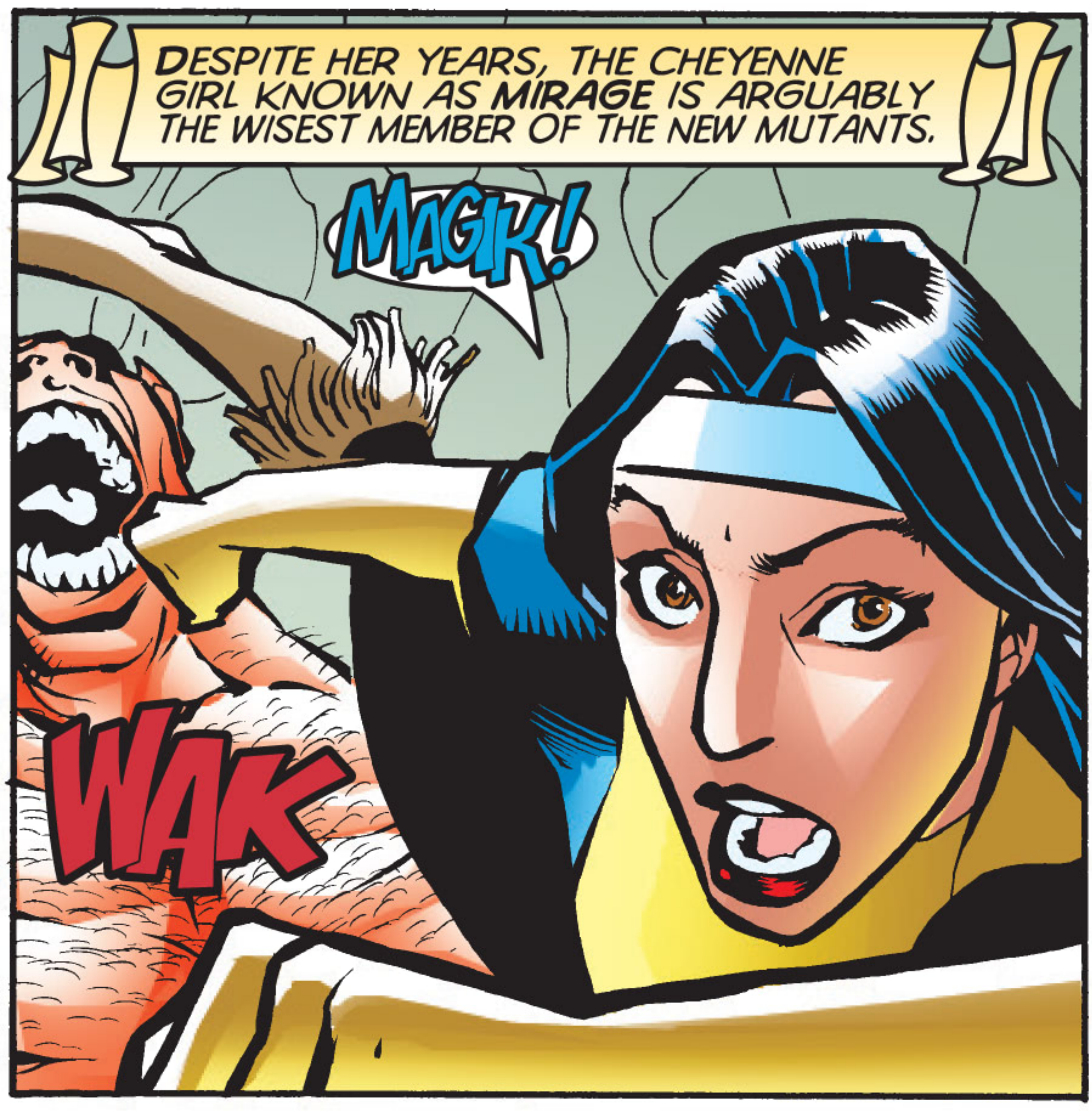
★ BASED ON ORIGINAL CHARACTERS CREATED BY **CHRIS CLAREMONT** AND **BOB McLEOD**

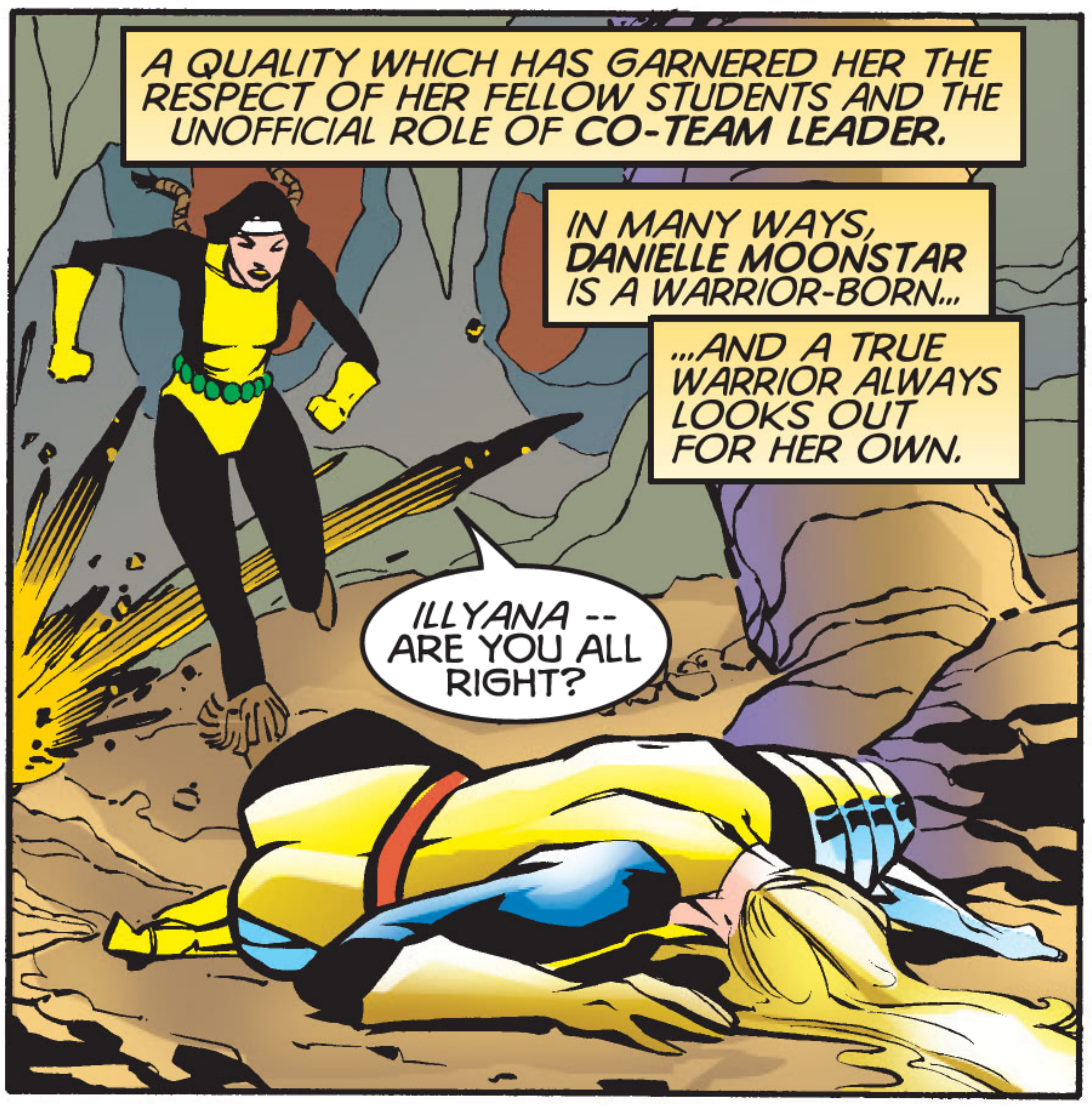
YEAH, WELL... WE'RE THE NEXT GENERATION O' X-MEN, 'YANA!
AN' THAT MEANS WE KICK BUTT!
ZOOM
A-ROOO?
NICE ATTITUDE, GUTHRIE.
BUT 'TUDE -- AND AN IMPENETRABLE BLASTIN' FIELD -- AIN'T GONNA WIN THE DAY HERE, HAYSEED. SKILL IS!
BESIDES, WHO SAYS YOU'RE "X-MEN MATERIAL"?
HII-YA!
OOOF!
Och, SAM... DANI -- HOW CAN YE JOKE AT A TIME LIKE THIS?
'TIS BLASPHEMY TAE CONSORT WI' THESE INFERNAL BEASTIES!
IF OL' REVEREND CRAIG COULD SEE ME NOW -- HE'D LIKELY DAMN MUH SOUL TAE HELL WIT' EM!
GRRROWL
HAR
HAR
HAR
OI, YOU LOT! LOOKIT THE FUNNY WOLF-GIRL!
SHE'S SCAAARED O'US!

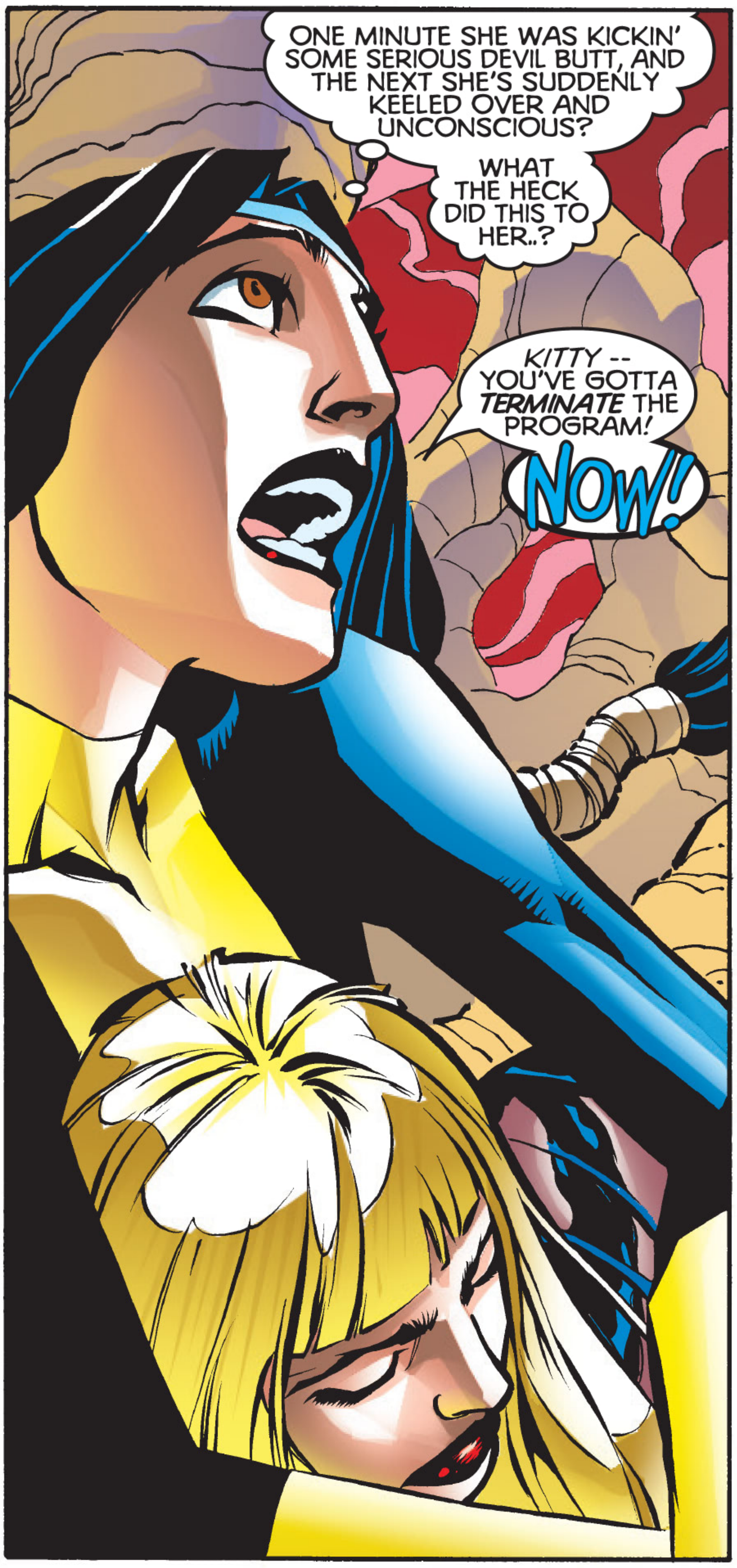
DON'T LET THEM RIDE YOU, WOLFSBANE.
THESE CREATURES MAY LOOK SCARY, BUT WHEN IT COMES TO PURE, RAW POWER --
-- SUNSPOT'S GOT 'EM BEAT HANDS DOWN!
SO LONG AS THE SOLAR ENERGY STORED IN MY BODY DOESN'T RUN OUT, THAT IS!
WHAM
WHY, ROBERTO DaCOSTA -- IS THAT FEAR I HEAR IN YOUR VOICE?
SURELY SOMEONE AS MACHO AS YOU HAS NOTHING TO FEAR FROM THE LIKES OF THESE "SHADOW" CREATURES!
AND MY OWN CONTROL OVER MOLTEN LAVA WILL HANDLE THIS BEAST! OR MY NAMESAKE ISN'T WORTHY OF THE TITLE, MAGMA!
WOOSH
ARRGH!
WORRY NOT, SELFFRIENDS SUNSPOT!
SELF IS HERE TO PROTECT YOU!
BAM
BAM
BAM
NICE JOB, WARLOCK!

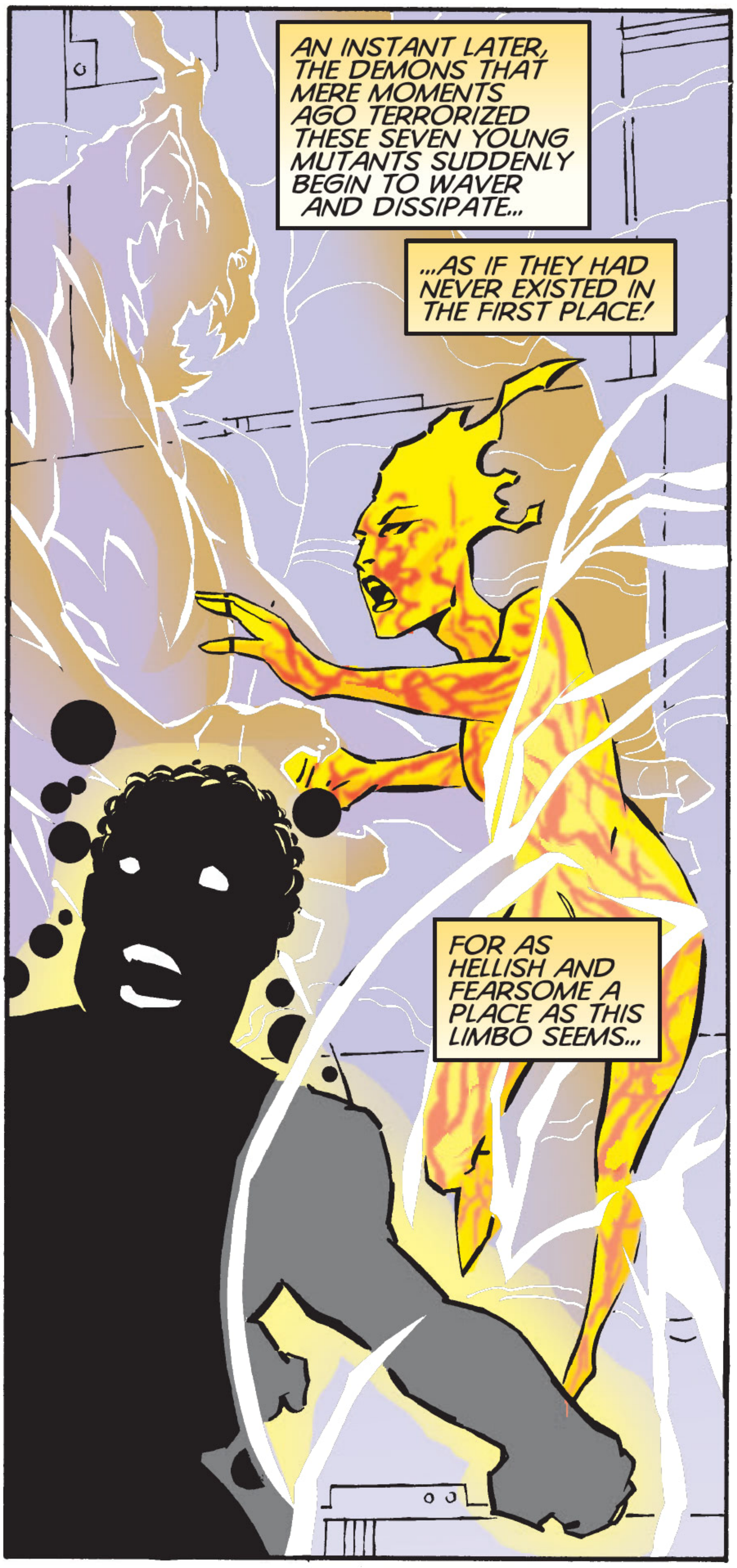
COLOR ME *IMPRESSED.* I DIDN'T THINK THE NEW MUTANTS HAD IT IN THEM --
-- BUT THEY'RE HOLDING THEIR OWN AGAINST SOME OF THE *NASTIEST* DEMONS DWELLING IN LIMBO.
BUT THERE'S STILL *ONE MORE DEMON* UNACCOUNTED FOR...
LOOKIN' F'R **ME,** SWEETS?
COULDN'T STAND BEIN' AWAY FROM OL' **S'YM** NOW, COULDJA?
I AM GLAD YER BACK, GIRLIE. 'CUZ THIS TIME, YA AIN'T GETTIN' AWAY FROM ME WITH NO CHEAP TELEPORTIN' STEPPIN' DISC!
THIS TIME, WE GO TOE T'TOE AN' SEE WHO REALLY DESERVES T'BE MASTER O'LIMBO.
AN' WHO GETS **T'DIE!**
YOU REALLY *WANT* LIMBO THAT BAD, S'YM..?
CRUNCH
HEY!
YOU CAN *HAVE* IT. ***ALL*** OF IT.
TAKE ALL THOSE SLIMY, STINKY DEMONS... ALL THOSE BARREN WASTELANDS WHERE TIME HAS NO MEANING...
...AND ***SHOVE 'EM*** *WHERE THE SUN DON'T SHINE!*
COME BACK HERE, YA LITTLE MINX!

I NEVER ASKED TO BECOME A "DEMON "SORCERESS."
I NEVER ASKED TO BE A MUTANT TELEPORTER.
AND MOST OF ALL, I NEVER ASKED TO SACRIFICE MY CHILDHOOD JUST TO BECOME THE RULER OF SOME STUPID, MYSTICAL NETHER-WORLD!
Uh, KID..? WHAT'RE YA DOIN'?
SOMETHING I SHOULD'VE DONE A LONG TIME AGO...
SHUNK
ARRGH!
...I'M TAKING BACK MY LIFE!
AND NOW THAT I HAVE -- NO ONE'S TAKING IT AWAY FROM ME EVER AGAIN!
FATE IGNORES THE WISHES OF THE YOUNG, LITTLE ONE.
Huh? WHO'RE YOU?
SOMEONE WHO CARES FOR YOU VERY MUCH. SOMEONE WHO WANTS TO HELP YOU CIRCUMVENT THE INESCAPABLE HAND OF FATE.
I-I DON'T KNOW WHY I SHOULD TRUST YOU, MISTER -- BUT THERE'S SOMETHING... SO FAMILIAR ABOUT YOU.
I -- I FEEL LIKE I CAN.
THEN YOU MUST COME TO ME, ILLYANA NATALYANOVA RASPUTIN.
BUT HOW? AND WHERE ARE YOU?
WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT, YOU WILL KNOW...
BUT I -- Uhhhhh...


DESPITE HER YEARS, THE CHEYENNE GIRL KNOWN AS MIRAGE IS ARGUABLY THE WISEST MEMBER OF THE NEW MUTANTS.
MAGIK!
WAK


A QUALITY WHICH HAS GARNERED HER THE RESPECT OF HER FELLOW STUDENTS AND THE UNOFFICIAL ROLE OF CO-TEAM LEADER.
IN MANY WAYS, DANIELLE MOONSTAR IS A WARRIOR-BORN...
...AND A TRUE WARRIOR ALWAYS LOOKS OUT FOR HER OWN.
ILLYANA -- ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?


ONE MINUTE SHE WAS KICKIN' SOME SERIOUS DEVIL BUTT, AND THE NEXT SHE'S SUDDENLY KEELED OVER AND UNCONSCIOUS?
WHAT THE HECK DID THIS TO HER..?
KITTY -- YOU'VE GOTTA TERMINATE THE PROGRAM!
NOW!


AN INSTANT LATER, THE DEMONS THAT MERE MOMENTS AGO TERRORIZED THESE SEVEN YOUNG MUTANTS SUDDENLY BEGIN TO WAVER AND DISSIPATE...
...AS IF THEY HAD NEVER EXISTED IN THE FIRST PLACE!
FOR AS HELLISH AND FEARSOME A PLACE AS THIS LIMBO SEEMS...

...IT IS NOTHING MORE THAN A NIGHTMARE INTERPLAY OF **LIGHTS, LASERS** AND **HOLOGRAPHIC SHADOWS.**
A **"VIRTUAL REALITY"** CREATED BY COMPUTER-GURUS-IN RESIDENCE -- **KITTY PRYDE** AND **DOUG RAMSEY** -- FOR USE IN THE X-MEN'S HI-TECH TRAINING FACILITY...
...THE **DANGER ROOM!**
OMIGOD!
DANI -- IS SHE OKAY?
I DUNNO, PRYDE -- WE'VE GOTTA GET HER TO THE MED-LAB... LIKE *IMMEDIATELY!*
WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR, KITTY?
GET US DOWN THERE!
TAKING RAMSEY'S HAND IN HERS, THE X-MAN KNOWN AS **SPRITE** CONCENTRATES...
...CAUSING THE MOLECULES OF HER BODY TO LOSE THEIR COHESION SO THEY BOTH BECOME **INTANGIBLE** ENOUGH TO PASS THROUGH THE CONTROL ROOM WINDOW...
...AND FLOAT DOWN TO THE DANGER ROOM FLOOR, **LIGHTER** THAN AIR!
OWWW... WHAT HAPPENED..?
I REMEMBER SEEING *SOMEONE* -- AND THEN JUST COLLAPSING.
WHICH OF YOU *CYBER-GEEKS* PROGRAMMED THAT WEIRD GUY INTO THE SIMULATION?
WHOA! CHILL, RASPUTIN!

DID *YOU?*
Nuh-Uh. DID *YOU?*
Nuh-Uh.
Nuh-Uh!
Hmm...
LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE ILLYANA RASPUTIN HAS ENJOYED A SINGLE ONE OF THE SURPRISES FATE HAS THROWN HER WAY.
BUT THE UNEXPECTED VISITOR THAT HAS JUST STEPPED INTO HER LIFE LIKE A WRAITH FROM THE FUTURE -- **HER** FUTURE -- HAS STIRRED SOMETHING WITHIN THIS TORTURED YOUNG GIRL.
SOMETHING THAT WILL CHANGE HER FOREVER. SOMETHING SHE **FEARS**...
...BUT MUST **CONFRONT.**
C'MON, 'YANA, YA'D BEST GIT DOWN T'THE ***INFIRMARY*** SO'S WE CAN MAKE SURE YER OKAY.
HANDS ***OFF,*** GUTHRIE --
-- UNLESS YOU WANT 'EM ***SLICED*** OFF.
GULP!
THEN WE'LL SEE WHO ***REALLY*** NEEDS THE INFIRMARY.
SIGH!
LET *ME* HANDLE THIS...

TOP
BEWARE OF DEMON! ENTER AT YOUR OWN RISK!
NOK NOK
GO AWAY.
NOK
NOK
I SAID...GO AWAY!
NOK
NOK
WHAT WORD DIDN'T YOU UNDERSTAND? I SAID --
I'M SORRY, WERE YOU TALKING TO ME... OR... JUST BEING A TOTAL JERK TO ALL YOUR FRIENDS?
WE'VE GOTTA TALK, KIDDO.
NOT IN THE MOOD.
TOO BAD. GET IN THE MOOD.
I'M NOT LEAVIN' UNTIL WE'RE UP TO OUR EYEBALLS IN THE GUTS YOU'RE GONNA SPILL ALL OVER THE PLACE.
VERY FUNNY. I THOUGHT YOU WERE TRYING TO HELP ME...
...NOT GROSS ME OUT.
GEE. AND HERE I THOUGHT A "BEEN-TO-HELL-AND-BACK" KINDA GAL LIKE YOU WOULDN'T GET GROSSED OUT SO EASILY...
YEAH, WELL... WHEN YOU'VE SEEN SOME OF THE HORRORS I HAVE, YOU TEND NOT TO TAKE SUCH THINGS VERY LIGHTLY.
ESPECIALLY WHEN IT FEELS LIKE SOMEONE STEPPED ON MY GRAVE.

THAT GUY YOU THINK YOU SAW..? THE ONE SUPPOSEDLY FROM THE FUTURE..?
YUP.
Oh, KITTY -- I THINK SOMETHING TERRIBLE'S GONNA HAPPEN TO ME.
Shhhh... ***NOTHING'S*** GONNA HAPPEN. NOT WHILE I'M AROUND!
LOOK, YOU KNOW YOUR DEMONIC POWERS TOTALLY WIG ME OUT --
-- BUT IF THEY CAN HELP YOU FIND THAT GUY AND GET SOME ANSWERS, THEN I SAY, ***USE*** 'EM... AND PUT YOUR MIND AT EASE ONCE AND FOR ALL.
SNIFF!
KNOW SOMETHING, PRYDE?
YOU'RE ***AWESOME.***
YEAH, I ***KNOW.*** BUT THAT'S WHAT ***BEST FRIENDS*** ARE FOR!
Oh... BEFORE I FORGET! IF YOU ***DO*** GO TO THE FUTURE..? DO ME A ***FAVOR.***
SEE IF THAT HUNKY ***BIG BRO*** OF YOURS AND I EVER GET ***HITCHED!***
OUT!
GIGGLE!
KITTY'S RIGHT. FRIENDS ***SHOULD*** HELP FRIENDS IN TIMES OF TROUBLE.
AND IF I DO SOMETHING WILD AND CRAZY LIKE TELEPORT INTO THE FUTURE TO TRY AND CHANGE MY FATE...
...I'M GONNA NEED ***ALL*** THE FRIENDS I'VE GOT!

THAT NIGHT, AS AN UNEXPECTED STORM WASHES OVER THE TOWN OF SALEM CENTER...
KERRAK
AW, SHUCKS.
BLACKOUT.
AY! MADRE DE DIOS! WE'RE GONNA MISS THE SEASON PREMIERE OF "MAGNUM, PI!"
YAAWWWN...! POBRECITO.
NOW MAYBE WE CAN DO SOMETHING INTELLIGENT... FOR ONCE!
menudo
LIKE WHAT? ANYBODY GOT ANY IDEAS?
I DO.
KERRAK
LET'S PLAY "TRUTH OR DARE"...

LATER, AFTER A QUICK SEARCH FOR CANDLES...
...AND A BRIEF EXPLANATION OF THE RULES OF THE GAME...
YOUR TURN, WARLOCK. TRUTH... OR DARE?
SELF CHOOSES... "TRUTH."
OKAY, WHO'S THE REAL LEADER OF THE NEW MUTANTS? ME... OR OL' HAYSEED, GUTHRIE?
Er...UM... 1001001...
Um... WELL, SELF WOULD HAVE TO SAY... Um, Er... FOR THE SAKE OF SELF'S CONTINUED EXISTENCE... THAT SELFFRIEND DANI IS TEAM LEADER.
SELF HOPES THAT WAS THE RIGHT ANSWER!
YER CIRCUITS ARE FRIED, 'LOCK! AH'M "HEAD HONCHO" HERE!
TSSSS! BURNED YA!
GUESS THAT'S SETTLED -- Eh, SAMMIE BOY?
AND SO THE GAME CONTINUES FOR HOURS.
SOME QUESTIONS ARE PLAYFUL... EVOKING AN ATMOSPHERE OF LEVITY TOO OFTEN LOST IN THE TRYING ADOLESCENCE THESE YOUNG MUTANTS MUST FACE...
OF ALL THE LANGUAGES STORED IN THE X-MEN'S COMPUTER BANKS -- WHICH IS YOUR FAVORITE, CYPHER?
KREE... DEFINITELY, KREE.
...OTHERS -- ESPECIALLY TO THE MORE RELUCTANT PLAYERS OF THE GAME -- ARE MORE PERSONAL...
I GUESS I'LL TRY... Um... Er... ..."TRUTH"..?

ILLYANA... BE NICE.
I'M *ALWAYS* "NICE".
AS IF.
OK, RAHNE -- IS THERE ANYONE SITTING IN THIS CIRCLE THAT YOU WANT TO REACH OVER TO *RIGHT NOW*...
...AND *KISS?*
Heh.
Oh, DEAR.
Um... Er... DID I SAY "*TRUTH*"? Eh... WELL... WHAT I *REALLY MEANT* WAS "*DARE!*"
BUT IF YOU DO *NOT* ANSWER -- WILL YOU NOT THEN BE SUBJECT TO THE MERCILESS WHIMS OF THE *GROUP?*
YEAH, RAHNE! DON'T BE SUCH A POOP! WE'VE ALL PLAYED ALONG SO FAR!
PEER PRESSURE! PEER PRESSURE!
NO!
IF RAHNE DOESN'T WANT TO PLAY THE WITCH'S SILLY GAME, SHE SHOULDN'T HAVE TO!
ROBERTO!
AND YOU --! LET'S SEE IF *YOU* CAN TAKE IT AS WELL AS YOU CAN DISH IT OUT!
WHY DON'T YOU ACCEPT A "*DARE*"?
OKAY, TOUGH GUY, *HIT* ME!
Hmm, I DARE YOU...
...I DARE YOU...
...I DARE YOU TO FACE FATE AND SEE YOURSELF IN THE FUTURE!
THAT'S A MIGHTY BIG CHALLENGE, 'BERTO... BUT I *ACCEPT.*
ONLY ON THE CONDITION THAT ALL OF YOU WILL COME *WITH* ME.
I "*TRIPLE-DOG DARE*" YOU...
Oooh... THE *QUEEN MOTHER* DARE OF ALL!

WELL, RAHNE -- WHAT DO YOU SAY, *CHIQUITA?*
DON'T LET HER BULLY YOU. I DON'T TRUST HER TELEPORTING ABILITIES EITHER.
I KNOW, BERTO. BUT SHE'S STILL OUR FRIEND... I GUESS.
SHE SHOULDN'T HAVE TAE FACE THIS ALONE... I GUESS.
THEN IT'S SETTLED. WE'RE GOING...
NOW!
*WITH THE SLIGHTEST GESTURE, MAGIK'S **"STEPPING DISC"** DESCENDS UPON THE NEW MUTANTS...*
...REMOVING THEM FROM ONE SPECIFIC POINT IN TIME, ONE SPECIFIC LOCATION IN SPACE...
*...AND PLACING THEM IN AN ENTIRELY **DIFFERENT** ONE ALTOGETHER.*
*AT LEAST, THAT'S WHAT IT'S **SUPPOSED** TO DO.*
WHAT THE --?? WE'RE *STILL* IN THE LIVING ROOM!
AND, HEY -- THE BLACKOUT'S OVER!
FROM THE LOOK OF IT, MY FRIENDS -- I'D SAY WE'RE NOWHERE NEAR THE "*FUTURE!*"
Oh, YEAH..?
*THEN WHO THE HECK ARE **THOSE** KIDS?!*

MEANWHILE, AT **LAGUARDIA AIRPORT** IN QUEENS, NEW YORK -- PRESENT DAY...
ATTENTION! FLIGHT #569 FROM GLASGOW NOW ARRIVING AT GATE 15...
AMERIAIR
...A LONG OVERDUE REUNION OF OLD FRIENDS IS ABOUT TO TAKE PLACE.
Ah THINK Ah SEE THE PLANE TAXIIN' INTA THE GATE NOW. I HOPE SHE HAD A *SAFE* FLIGHT.
AY, QUE LINDA!
DIOS MIO, HOW I *LOOOOVE* ***FLIGHT ATTENDANTS!***
EASY THERE, ***"DON JUAN"***... I THINK THEY JUST CLEANED THE CARPETS.
TRY NOT TO ***DROOL*** SO MUCH.
HOW SWEET SAMUEL IS TO BE SO WORRIED. HE IS THE CONSUMMATE ***"BIG BROTHER."***
FUNNY, BUT I NEVER REALIZED HOW *ALIKE* HE AND I ARE. WHEN IT COMES TO OUR ***FAMILIES*** --
GATE 25
ARRIV
MEMPHIS MIAMI NEW YORK NEWARK NANTUCK PITTSBU
YOLK
"-- *NOTHING* MATTERS ***MORE.***"
FEELS LIKE FOREVER SINCE WE'VE ALL GOTTEN TOGETHER LIKE THIS. EVEN IF IT IS JUST F'R A ***WEEKEND.***
SEEMS JUST LIKE THE OL' DAYS, WHEN IT WAS JUST ME... BOBBY... DANI... XI'AN AND --
"-- ***RAHNE!***"
GATE 21
AMERIAIR
SAM! DANI!
OVER HERE!

WOW! RAHNE SURE HAS CHANGED OVER THE YEARS! SHE LOOKS AWESOME!
Ah KNOW SHE USED TA HAVE A CRUSH ON ME WHEN WE WERE KIDS.
MAYBE SHE STILL DOES..?
WELL, Ah'LL BE! IF IT AIN'T MAH FAVORITE WEREWOLF! WASSUP --
-- GAL..?
Och, GET O'ER HERE AN' GIMME A HUG ALREADY!
Oooh! I'VE MISSED YE SO MUCH!
AND AS THE FIVE ORIGINAL MUTANTS BEGIN REMINISCING ABOUT THE GOOD OL' DAYS AS STUDENTS OF XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS...
...THOSE HALCYON DAYS BEFORE STARTING NEW LIVES AMONG THE X-MEN, X-FORCE, AND EXCALIBUR...
...A MOST UNEXPECTED GUEST JOINS THE FESTIVITIES!
WHAT..? DON'T I GET A HUG, TOO?
DOUGLOCK..? WHAT ARE YOU DOIN' HERE?!
YE SHOULD NAE BE HERE, DOUGIE. YE'RE CAUSIN' A SCENE!
WHAT IS THAT... THAT... THING?!
DON'T WORRY, RAHNE. I HAVE POSSESSED THE PEOPLE IN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY SO THAT THEY WILL SEE NOTHING MORE THAN A NORMAL, FLESH AND BLOOD, HUMAN BOY.
Och, THANK YE, XI'AN.
I ATTACHED MYSELF TO THE BOTTOM OF THE PLANE. NO ONE SAW ME UNTIL AFTER WE LANDED.
SUPER, DOUG, BUT WHY IN THE WORLD DID YE FOLLOW ME FROM MUIR ISLAND TAE NEW YORK?
HAS YUIR HEAD GLITCHED?!
ALL INTERNAL SYSTEMS ARE FULLY OPERATIONAL.
I JUST NEED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED BEFORE YOU LEFT... WHEN WE KISSED.
AS SEEN IN EXCALIBUR 113 —JAYE

I KNOW... I'VE BEEN THINKIN' ABOUT IT M'SELF. A *LOT.*
SURE'N THAT WAS SOME KISS, BOYO --
-- BUT IT REALLY COULD NAE'VE COME AT A *WORSE* TIME!
"SOME *KISS*"..? RAHNE?
"DOUGLOCK"..?!
WHO THE HECK IS 'DOUGLOCK' AND ***WHY*** IS HE KISSING RAHNE?!
Och, EVERYBODY GET IN THE CAR. I'LL EXPLAIN IT T'YE ON THE WAY HOME!
PRATT
LATER, WHILE TRAVELING UPSTATE VIA THE CROSS **BRONX EXPRESSWAY....**
SO, BECAUSE OF THE STRENGTH OF THE BOND SHARED BY OUR *DECEASED* FRIEND, ***DOUG RAMSEY,*** AND OUR FORMER ALIEN TEAMMATE, ***WARLOCK*** --
-- *YOU...* A MEMBER OF THE COLLECTIVE CONSCIOUSNESS, CALLED ***"PHALANX"*** --
-- ASSUMED BOTH OF THEIR FORMS AS A GESTURE OF ***HONOR*** AND RESPECT?
YUP.
C'EST INCROYABLE!
YUP.
POOR RAHNE.
SHE'S GOT ENOUGH THINGS TO WORRY ABOUT WITH HER "MUM"... Dr. MOIRA MacTAGGERT... BEIN' SICK.*
LAST THING SHE NEEDS RIGHT NOW IS A *"BOYFRIEND"* -- MUCH LESS AN *ALIEN* ONE.
*MOIRA IS THE SOLE NON-MUTANT INFECTED WITH THE DEADLY *LEGACY VIRUS.* -- JAYE

WELL, HERE WE ARE, Y'ALL --
-- HOME SWEET HOME!
AFTER A QUICK -- AND UNDETECTABLE -- GENETIC SCAN OF THE HUM-V'S PASSENGERS, THE XAVIER INSTITUTE'S FORBIDDING WROUGHT-IRON GATES SWING WIDE...
...A TELL-TALE SIGN THAT IT'S BUSINESS-AS-USUAL IN THE MANSION PROPER.
WELL, SORT OF...
GOSH, BUT THAT GIRL SURE LOOKS LIKE MUH BABY SISTER, PAIGE. AH WONDER... COULD THIS BE THE FUTURE?
YE THINK SO, SAM? YE REALLY THINK SO? Och, YE'RE SO... SO... SO OBSERVANT!
SILLY GIRL -- REPEATIN' YUIRSELF LIKE THAT!
SAM'LL NE'ER LIKE YE IF YE KEEP DROOLIN' ON 'IM LIKE A LOVESICK PUPPY!
IXNAY ON THE IRTINGFLAY AND HIDE, YOU TWO!
SOMEONE'S COMING!
Oh, JEEZ! WARLOCK -- KILL THE LIGHTS, BUDDY!
RIGHT, SELFFRIENDDOUG!
WHAM
SMASH
THE LIGHTS ARE NOW "DEAD". POOR POOR LIGHTS...
HEY, DID YOU GUYS SEE THAT LIGHT GO OUT UPSTAIRS?
BUT AH THOUGHT THE X-MEN SAID WE'D HAVE THE MANSION TO OURSELVES F'R THE WEEKEND.
COULD IT BE AN INTRUDER?
FIND OUT SOON ENOUGH...
SNIFF SNIFF
SHIFTING TO HER HALF-HUMAN/HALF-LUPINE TRANSITIONAL FORM...
...WOLFSBANE HONES IN ON AN OLFACTORY TRAIL EVEN THE BEST ANIMAL TRACKERS WOULD FIND DIFFICULT TO TRACE...

...ALL THE WAY UP TO THE SECOND FLOOR LIVING ROOM.
ICK! WHAT'S THAT TERRIBLE ODOR?
SOMETHING SO FOUL, YET SO... FAMILIAR.
MADONNA BE PRAISED -- SHE DIDN'T SMELL US!
SHHH! WE'RE NOT OUT OF THIS YET!
PERHAPS IT'S NOTHIN'. A BULB COULD'VE JUST BLOWN AFTER A POWER SURGE. OR MAYBE EVEN -- Huh?
SNIFF SNIFF
THAT SCENT I PICKED UP... BEHIND THAT CHAIR... NAE WONDER IT'S SO FAMILIAR --
-- IT'S MINE!
DON'T... MOVE... A... MUSCLE, RAHNE!
NAE, SAM -- THIS GAME HAS GONE TOO FAR!
I'M NAE GAUNAE HIDE FROM M'SELF!
RAHNE! WHAT'RE YOU DOIN', GIRL?!
I SURRENDER! PLEASE DINNAE HURT US!
GRRRR..!
WE SHOULD GO HOME NOW, SAM. OUR TIME HERE IS UP.
AN' SO'S THE JIG...
BEGORRAH!

DUMBFOUNDED, RAHNE SINCLAIR RETURNS TO HER **HUMAN** FORM...
...HOPING THAT HER ADVANCED, **PRIMATE** BRAIN CAN SUCCESSFULLY COPE WHERE HER MORE PRIMAL, **CANINE** ONE HAS SUDDENLY FAILED.
FOR THE PEOPLE STANDING BEFORE HER, SHE TELLS HERSELF, CANNOT BE WHO SHE THINKS THEY ARE.
THEY **CANNOT** BE HER FRIENDS, MIRACULOUSLY CATAPULTED FROM THE PAST INTO THE PRESENT.
WHY, IT DEFIES ALL THE LESSONS IN **"TEMPORAL MECHANICS"** IMPARTED TO HER WITHIN THESE VERY HALLOWED HALLS.
DOESN'T IT?
D-DOUGLAS..? IS THAT *REALLY* YOU?
Uh, YEAH, RAHNE... *SHOULDN'T* IT BE?
BUT BEFORE SHE CAN ANSWER...
SWEET MOTHER O' MERCY!
WHAT IN THE WORLD IS GOIN' ON HERE?! WHO CONJURED THOSE *HOLOGRAMS* OF US IN OUR *OLD* UNIFORMS?!
NO HOLOGRAMS HERE, GUTHRIE.
AND YA REALLY WANNA KNOW WHO'S *RESPONSIBLE* FOR THIS LITTLE *TEMPORAL PARADOX..?*
I AM.
THAT A PROBLEM?

Uh...Um... WELL...
Y'SEE... Er... Uhh...
MMM... Uhh... NO, ILLYANA. NO PROBLEM HERE.
"*ILLYANA*"..? "*ILLYANA*"..? SEARCHING DATABASE... SEARCHING...
HEY, AREN'T YOU *KITTY'S* FRIEND? THE ONE WHO ***DIED***..?*
D-DEAD..?
M-ME..?
Och, DEAR LORD...
NO!
TORRENTS OF UNCONTROLLABLE EMOTION WELLING UP INSIDE HER, THREATENING TO CASCADE OVER HER FACADE OF INDIFFERENCE...
...MAGIK TELEPORTS ***AWAY,*** *REFUSING TO SHOW HER FRIENDS EVEN THE SLIGHTEST WEAKNESS.*

*TRAGEDY STRUCK IN *UNCANNY X-MEN* 303 -- JAYE

YET, DESPITE HER BRAVADO, THE LAST THING ILLYANA RASPUTIN WANTS RIGHT NOW IS TO BE ALONE.
SHE WISHES FOR SOMEONE TO REACH OUT TO... SOMEONE TO HOLD HER AND TELL HER EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT.
YOU CHOSE THIS. TO KNOW THE FUTURE -- TO KNOW YOUR FATE.
YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD HANDLE IT.
IDIOT.
SOMEONE WHO LOVES HER.
YOUR BROTHER ONCE TOLD ME, "THE FUTURE IS BUT A BLANK CANVAS UPON WHICH WE PAINT THE PORTRAIT OF OUR DESTINY."
THOUGH I AM NOT AS ADEPT AN ARTIST AS DEAR PIOTR...
...I DO BELIEVE I CAN HELP YOU CREATE A PORTRAIT MORE TO YOUR LIKING, "LITTLE SNOWFLAKE".
"LITTLE SNOWFLAKE"..? HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT NAME?!
THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO CALL ME THAT ARE MY PARENTS, MY OLDER BROTHER, PIOTR, AND --
SHE GETS HER WISH.
-- YOUR ELDEST BROTHER... MIKHAIL!
THE CLASS REUNION OF THE CENTURY CONTINUES!
THE TRUTH ABOUT MAGIK'S FATE IS OUT, AND IT SPELLS CERTAIN DOOM FOR EVERYONE'S FAVORITE DEMON SORCERESS!
OR DOES IT?
FIND OUT NEXT MONTH WHEN OUR HEROES -- BOTH PAST AND PRESENT -- DISCOVER JUST HOW MUCH...
'FAMILY MATTERS'!